

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle navigation apparatus comprising:
  - a display;
  - a database operable to store pre-update navigation data and difference data;
  - a difference data receiver operable receive difference data;
  - a difference data processor operable to generate freshness information based on the received difference data and pre-update navigation data; and
  - a display controller operable to generate images corresponding to map information, vehicle position, guidance information and freshness information for presentation on the display.
2. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein said difference data is point of interest (POI) data.
3. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein said difference data receiver receives difference data from a broadcast system.
4. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein said display, database, difference data receiver, difference data processor and display controller are connected with a communication bus.
5. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information includes a reliability assessment for a location stored in said database.
6. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 5 wherein said reliability assessment indicates whether information is guaranteed.
7. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information identifies if a location was not included in the pre-update navigation data.

8. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information includes an update date.
9. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the display controller generates a list including location names and freshness information for each location name.
10. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information is displayed in bar form indicating a degree of reliability.
11. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information is displayed in different colors, wherein each color corresponds to different degree of reliability.
12. The vehicle navigation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the freshness information is displayed with icons of different sizes, wherein each size corresponds to a different degree of reliability.
13. A method for displaying navigation information, said method comprising the acts of:
  - providing a database, the database including pre-update navigation data;
  - receiving difference data for a location;
  - comparing the difference data with existing update information in the database; and
  - displaying a location name and freshness information for the location.
14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the acts of:
  - searching for and extracting navigation data corresponding to the location from said database;
  - evaluating whether the navigation data is the most current data for the location; and

displaying an indication that the information corresponding to the location is guaranteed if the navigation data is the most current data for the location.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising the acts of:

evaluating whether the location was previously included in the database;

displaying an indication that the location is new if the location was not previously included in the database.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising the act of generating a display screen including a list of locations and freshness information for each location.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the freshness information is an indication whether the location information is guaranteed, a bar displaying relative reliability, an update date for the location information, a color adjustment in which each color indicates a different degree of reliability, or an icon that adjusts in size depending on the reliability of the location information.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the difference data is Point of Interest (POI) data.